Export of services

*98. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up with W.T.O. the matter regarding elimination of existing barriers to services exports; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has taken up at the World Trade Organisation the need to eliminate barriers to trade in services, both through movement of natural persons and through cross-border trade. These steps include proposals on liberalisation of movement of professionals, securing access for provision of remote services and specific requests to important trading partners on sectors of interest to India, including *inter alia*, Computer Related Services, Architecture, Health Services, Accountancy Services and Engineering Services, Martitime Transport Services, Financial Services and others. On these matters, India is working together with like-minded countries in the conext of the on-going mandated negotiations for achieving progressive liberalisation of trade in Services. The outcome of these efforts cannot be judged at this stage since negotiations on these matters are underway at the WTO.

Provisions for free schooling

*99. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether compulsory and free schooling of children between the age of six to fourteen years has been initiated;

(b) if so, the progress made so far; and

(c) the measures taken to achieve the goal of universalisation of the elementary schooling by exploring the resources to make the right to education a reality?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The Constitution (86th Amendment) Act, 2002 has been enacted which has, *inter alia*, inserted a new Article 21-A in Part III

(Fundamental Rights) of the Constitution. Article 21-A states that "The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of 6 to 14 years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine".

The follow up legislation envisaged in the above Article is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Plan allocations for Elementary Education have been steadily increasing over the years. In addition, limited external assistancde, as and when necessary, has been tapped for the universalisation of elementary education through the District Primary Education Programme and more recently the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

State Government have also been requested to mobilize resources from the community, on a voluntary basis, for improvement of primary education.

In the Union Budget presented on 8.7.2004, an education cess has also been proposed on income tax, corporation tax, excise and customs duties, and service tax to fulfil the Govenrment's commitment to provide and finance universalised quality basic education.

Malpractices in public schools

†*100. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the management in most of the public schools is arbitrarly charging tuition fees and donation for the admission of the students;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the management in such schools is giving less salary to the teachers and taking the receipt of full amount; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check such cheating by the managements of public schools?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) As per the information furnished by the CBSE the Affiliation Bye-laws of the Board states that fees being charged by the schools affiliated to it should be commensurate with the facilities provided by the institution. There is also a provision that no capitation fee or voluntary donation for gaining admission in the school or for any other purpose should be charged. The schools can therefore have different fee structures. However, this cannot be arbitary. The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) has also informed the Ministry that

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.